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Whitley County Lands Swiss Orthopedic Company, 25 New Jobs

Columbia City— Bringing another life science company to northeastern Indiana, today Precimed announced its intentions to install its first U.S. production facility in Columbia City.

Based in Orvin Switzerland, Precimed is an orthopedic surgical instrument manufacturer that designs and manufactures medical and dental instruments, implants, sterilization equipment and a variety of disposable medical products.

Located in Whitley County's Park 30 industrial park, Precimed will lease a new 35,000 square-foot spec building at 30 Park Drive and invest approximately \$3 million in building modifications and new equipment. By the end of year, company officials plan to create 25 high-skilled jobs with hopes of adding as many as 150 jobs as the company grows.

"This is another example of Indiana leading the way in the field of life sciences. With our central location, state-of-the-art research universities and newly restructured tax code, Indiana has become a leader among states that appeal to this nature of business," said Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts, serving as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce.

Founded as a high precision cutting tool division of Swatch watchmakers during the 1970s, today Precimed operates divisions in Beijing, Tokyo, Taipei and now Indiana, strategically placing facilities in the U.S., Europe and Asia. It also operates a sales office in Philadelphia, Pa.

"We are excited to be in Indiana and Whitley County. This Colombia City facility will allow Precimed to expand on our reputation for precision design, development, and manufacturing of surgical instruments and will put us closer to our U.S customers," said Precimed President Patrick Berdoz.

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An innovative leader in the industry, Precimed currently holds 11 different product patents with 14 others pending approval. Its products include reamers, drills and tapes, screws, broaches, handles, screwdrivers and full-service sets for hips and trauma.

“Precimed will bring more diversity to our economic base in Whitley County. We are very pleased that they have chosen to locate their company here. These high quality jobs will be a great asset to our local economy,” said Jim Bayman, Whitley County Council president.

“Whitley County embraces our new employer, Precimed, with enthusiasm and excitement. This corporation not only further diversifies our existing manufacturing base but also further supports the state of Indiana’s focus on life sciences,” added Dorinda Heiden, Whitley County Economic Development Corp. president.

To secure the project, the Whitley County Economic Development Corp. worked with the Indiana Department of Commerce. Whitley County offered \$2.5 million in tax abatements on equipment and \$650,000 for building improvements. Commerce will work with Precimed to secure future grants from the state.

Precimed is the latest addition to an impressive list of orthopedic-related companies located in northeastern Indiana including BioMet, Dupuy, Zimmer and Othy. Orthopedics is an essential part of the life sciences industry, which is currently the state’s fastest growing industry, employing 320,000 Hoosiers statewide.

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